

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9 and 18 as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A connector for a respiratory assembly, comprising:
a body having a first end and a second end, said first end defining a single opening and said second end defining a single opening, said body having a passage disposed therethrough from said first end to said second end to allow for transport of fluids and objects through said body, ~~said passage changing direction at a single constant angle of approximately 120° between said first end and said second end,~~ wherein said first end includes a coupling configured to rotatably engage a first member of the respiratory assembly, wherein said second end includes a coupling configured to rotatably engage a second member of the respiratory assembly, wherein the only access to said passage is through said openings of said first and second ends, wherein said passage extends through said coupling of said first end and said coupling of said second end such that said passage changing direction at a single constant angle of approximately 120° through the entire said body.
2. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 1, wherein the first member is a tracheal tube and the second member is a ventilating tube.
3. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 1, wherein said first and second end couplings include hollow female bell housings.
4. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 3, wherein:

said first end coupling includes a first sleeve within said bell housing, the entire circumference of said first sleeve is rotatable with respect to said first end so that said first sleeve remains in rotating engagement with said first end, said first sleeve sized for receipt of the first member therein such that said first end rotatably engages the first member; and

said second end coupling includes a second sleeve within said bell housing, the entire circumference of said second sleeve is rotatable with respect to said second end so that said second sleeve remains in rotating engagement with said second end, said second sleeve sized for receipt of the second member therein such that said second end rotatably engages the second member.

5. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 4, wherein:

said first sleeve has a first annular sealing member on one end thereof for engagement with a first annular rib on said first end, engagement between said first annular sealing member and said first annular rib causes deflection of said first annular sealing member to create an essentially hermetic seal between said first sleeve and said first end; and

said second sleeve has a second annular sealing member on one end thereof for engagement with a second annular rib on said second end, engagement between said second annular sealing member and said second annular rib causes deflection of said second annular sealing member to create an essentially hermetic seal between said second sleeve and said second end.

6. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 5, wherein:

said first and second ends each having a stepped annular ring; and
further comprising a first and second retainer disposed in said respective annular rings for retaining said first and second sleeves in engagement with said respective first and second ends.

7. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 1, wherein said body, said first end, and said second end are plastic, are made by injection molding, and are substantially transparent.

8. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 1, wherein the first member is a tracheal tube and the second member is a humidifier tube.

9. (Currently Amended) A connector for a respiratory assembly, comprising:
a first section being substantially cylindrical in shape, said first section having a first axis that extends through the entire said first section, said first section defining a single opening, said first section having a first passage therethrough to allow for transport of fluids and objects through said first section, said first section rotatably engageable with a first member of the respiratory assembly;

a second section being substantially cylindrical in shape and being connected to said first section, said second section having a second axis that extends through the entire said second section, said second section defining a single opening, said second section having a second passage therethrough in communication with said first passage to allow for transport of fluids and objects through said second section, said second section rotatably engageable with a second member of the respiratory assembly; and

wherein a single constant angle of about 120° exists between said first axis and said second axis; and

wherein the only access to said first and second passages is through said openings of said first and second sections.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 9, wherein the first member is a tracheal tube and the second member is a ventilating tube.

12. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 9, wherein said first and second sections have hollow female bell housings.

13. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 12, further comprising:

a first sleeve within said bell housing in said first section, the entire surface of said first sleeve is rotatable with respect to said first section so that said first sleeve remains in rotating engagement with said first section, said first sleeve sized for receipt of the first member therein such that said first section rotatably engages the first member; and

a second sleeve within said bell housing in said second section, the entire surface of said second sleeve is rotatable with respect to said second section so that said second sleeve remains in rotating engagement with said second section, said

second sleeve sized for receipt of the second member therein such that said second section rotatably engages the second member.

14. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 13, wherein:

said first sleeve has a first annular sealing member on one end thereof for engagement with a first annular rib on said first section, engagement between said first annular sealing member and said first annular rib causes deflection of said first annular sealing member to create an essentially hermetic seal between said first sleeve and said first section; and

said second sleeve has a second annular sealing member on one end thereof for engagement with a second annular rib on said second section, engagement between said second annular sealing member and said second annular rib causes deflection of said second annular sealing member to create an essentially hermetic seal between said second sleeve and said second section.

15. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 14, wherein:

said first and second sections each having a stepped annular ring; and
further comprising a first and second retainer disposed in said respective annular rings for retaining said first and second sleeves in engagement with said respective first and second sections.

16. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 9, wherein said first and second sections are plastic and are substantially transparent, said first and second sections are made by injection molding.

17. (Original) The connector for a respiratory assembly of claim 9, wherein the first member is a tracheal tube and the second member is a humidifier tube.

18. (Currently Amended) A connector for a respiratory assembly, comprising:

a body having a first end defining a single opening and a second end defining a single opening, said body having a passageway for the transport of fluids and objects through said body, said body having about a 120° single constant bend between said first end and said second end, wherein the only access to said passageway is through said openings of said first and second ends;

a first female bell housing connected to said first end having a first annular rib;

a second female bell housing connected to said second end having a second annular rib;

a first sleeve disposed within said first female bell housing, said first sleeve having a first annular sealing member configured to engage said first annular rib and effect a hermetic seal between said passageway and the outside of the respiratory assembly;

a second sleeve disposed within said second female bell housing, said second sleeve having a second annular sealing member configured to engage said second annular rib and effect a hermetic seal between said passageway and the outside of the respiratory assembly;

wherein said first sleeve is adapted to engage a first member of the respiratory assembly and permit rotational motion between said body and the first member of the respiratory assembly; and

wherein said second sleeve is adapted to engage a second member of the respiratory assembly and permit rotational motion between said body and the second member of the respiratory assembly[.]; and

wherein said passageway of said body extends through said first sleeve and said second sleeve such that said passageway changing direction at a single constant angle of about 120° through the entire said first sleeve, the entire said second sleeve, and the entire said body.